



## ABOUT BMHA

### *For the information of our first-time readers*

Bicycle Mobile Hams of America got its start when a 'Stray' in the June '89 QST magazine asked to "get in touch with hams who operate their radios while bicycle-mobile," signed by Hartley Alley, NA0A. Twenty-five hams responded, filled out questionnaires, and received a summary of the collected data.

In April of '90 we had our first BMHA Forum at the Dayton Hamvention. We played to a packed house, overflowed the room, and added 54 names to our mailing list. Our sixteen subsequent forums have drawn increasingly larger audiences, and now BMHA is firmly established as a 'regular' at this world-renowned event.

This is the forty-eighth issue of our periodic newsletter, which has become *the* clearinghouse for the exchange of info and ideas for the hams who go on the air from their bicycles.

BMHA membership puts you in touch with a friendly and helpful group of bike-riding hams. You'll make contacts through our membership directory, BMHA Yahoo Groups and the annual meeting and Forum at the Dayton Hamvention and other regional meetings, and of course through the BMHA Newsletter, which has articles on bike trips, antennas, other gear, operating tips, etc. A membership application is included in the newsletter or on the BMHA web page at:

[www.BMHA-Hams.org](http://www.BMHA-Hams.org)

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## Bicycle Mobile Hams of America Organizational Announcement

Bicycle Mobile Hams of America ( BMHA ) proudly announces a change to our organization.

Since it's founding in 1989 by Hartley Alley, NA0A, BMHA has been a premier information source for Bicycle Mobile Hams through our newsletter for members based on a yearly membership fee. Although BMHA hosts a web based information site along with sponsoring a group on Yahoo Groups, yearly membership dues have supported the organization since 1990.

After several years of discussion and efforts to secure a new newsletter editor, we are announcing the entrance to a purely web based newsletter made available to all. We will suspend yearly dues as long as our funding can be maintained with the current treasury.

For those in the last several years who supported BMHA with yearly membership dues, we plan to afford each with a CD-ROM containing all past issues of the BMHA Newsletter. The issues have already become a great source of information containing ideas and articles of interest to all BMHA'ers. This is a great reward to those who have supported BMHA for many years. We will be making these available by mailing a copy to each member at no charge.

The first new web based issue is planned to be made available in the first half of 2007 and will be placed on the BMHA website. Any current paid members will already be authorized to view this and all future issues. Others wishing to view the current and future issues will need to complete a short registration screen. No membership dues will be required and you will be able to view and download all issues.

Each newsletter will be placed on the BMHA website for members and shortly thereafter on the Yahoo Groups BMHA group site for all group members.

To continue the information flow, we ask that you submit articles you would like published to our newsletter editor, N9ZKS, NF0N or the BMHA webmaster. All articles and information will be considered for inclusion in the web newsletter. Please submit articles to one of the following:

[n9zks@earthlink.net](mailto:n9zks@earthlink.net)

[nf0n@arrl.net](mailto:nf0n@arrl.net)

[bmha-webmaster@lafetra.com](mailto:bmha-webmaster@lafetra.com)

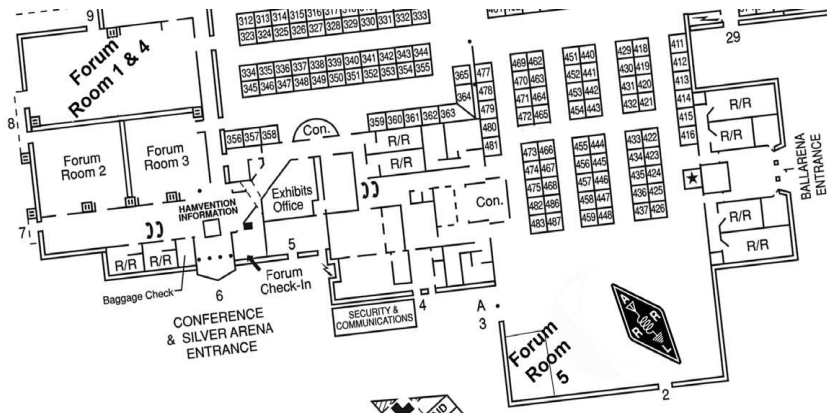
Thanks for your support and we hope BMHA continues to be a great source of information for each of you.

Board of Directors,

Bicycle Mobile Hams of America

## Dayton Hamvention 2007 BMHA Forum

The 17th Annual BMHA forum will be held from 9-10:30 am in Room 5 at the Dayton Hamvention on Sunday May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2007. Russ Dwarshuis, KB8U, will be forum moderator and speaker



Our special Guest speaker is:

Budd Drummond, W3FF. Budd is well known for Buddipole Antennas, a manufacturer of lightweight, versatile HF portable dipole antenna and vertical antenna systems for amateur radio. Budd will be showing HF antennas on bicycles and trikes, including his own unique installation. Look for some interesting pictures and dialogue from Budd. Don't miss this one.

Stephan Hepner, KC9EKU, and his father, John, KA8ZSB, will be displaying their Greenspeed trikes. Stephan's has brought his trike to the BMHA forum before, he has made some excellent updates. Be sure to look these trikes over to get some great ideas.

The new BMHA newsletter editor, Norm Huber, N9ZKS, will be available to receive any newsletter articles for our new web based newsletter. Please give Norm a warm welcome and your articles for publication.

Room details are shown on the Hara Arena map. Our room is near the ARRL display tables.

For any last minute details see our web site at:

[www.BMHA-hams.org](http://www.BMHA-hams.org)

or BMHA at Yahoo Groups.

Mike Nickolaus, NFØN

BMHA Secretary/Treasurer

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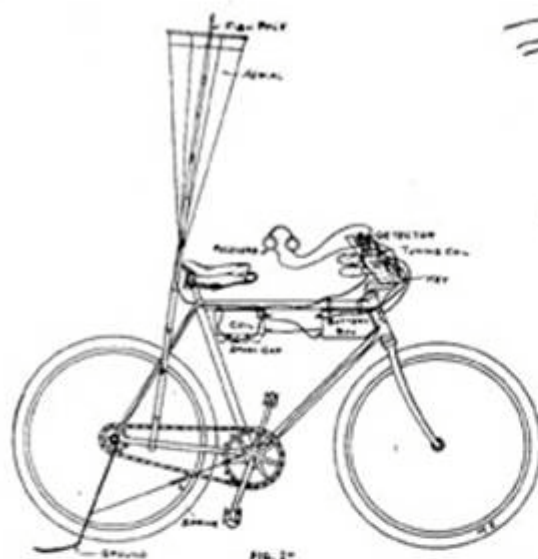
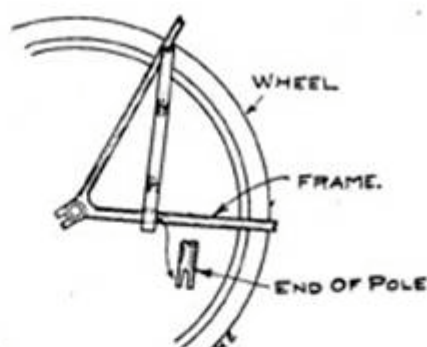


FIG. 1



-FIG. 2-



-FIG. 4-

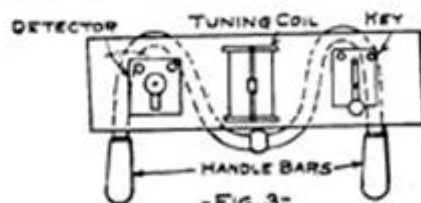
### HOW TO MAKE A BICYCLE WIRELESS OUTFIT.

Many amateur wireless operators who have bicycles and go out for a long ride with their friends, can attach their wireless outfit on their bicycle and carry on communication between each other.

To attach their wireless outfit to their bicycle, it should first be fastened on a board, about 8 inches by 2 feet. Before fastening the apparatus to the board small straps should be fastened on the bottom side of the board so as to keep the board on the handle bars. Only the receiving apparatus should be fastened to the board, as the sending apparatus can be fastened to another part of the bicycle. The spark gap should be fastened on top of the coil and the latter suspended upside down. A small box should be put over the spark gap so as to protect the rider from a shock. The coil and gap should then be fastened on the bar just below the seat. The batteries should be fastened on the bar below the handle bars. The coil and batteries should be fastened very tight so as to prevent them from shaking. The ground wire can be made as follows: Get a long piece of galvanized iron wire about 22 inches long by  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch thick, about 6 inches from one end bend it as shown in the diagram. The other end should be bent into a small hook and should be fastened under the nut of the back wheel.

About 5 inches from the bottom of the wire a rope should be fastened. This rope should have a spring attached to it as shown in the diagram. The other end of the rope should be fastened near the sprocket. The rope with the spring on it keeps the ground wire dragging along the ground so as to make contact with it.

For the aerial, a large fish pole about 15 feet long will do. On the bottom end of the pole a notch should be cut so as to fit in the bar near the back wheel as shown in the diagram. The pole should then be tied near the seat with some rope.



-FIG. 3-

The aerial wires can be fastened as shown in the sketch. No. 14 wire, rubber covered or Pirelli cable should be used in all the wiring. The key of the sending station should also be fastened on the board over the handle bars. A lot of fun can be had with an outfit like this, as one rider can ride ahead of the rest and can still carry on a conversation.

Contributed by

WILLIAM DETTMER.

## **Ramblings from AA6WK**

Skip, AA6WK

[BMHA-Webmaster@LaFetra.com](mailto:BMHA-Webmaster@LaFetra.com)

Our first new newsletter in several years gives us the chance to let you know a little more about ourselves.

### My time with the BMHA

I joined BMHA shortly after I received my first license in 1990 (the BMHA was founded in 1989) and I subscribed to QST and found the famous "stray" note about BMHA. I have been a bicyclist since 1970, so hamming is a hobby that I added to bicycling, rather than the other way around.

Having written an article or two for the BMHA newsletter, Hartley NA0A apparently liked my style and asked me to be "Assistant Newsletter Editor" -- which meant that Hartley did all of the work single-handedly and gave me a handwritten article or two to transcribe and do a little wordsmithing. Over this time, Hartley (who was a bundle of energy) did everything for the BMHA -- it was truly a one-man show.

For about a year or so we had a HF net where the BMHA could meet. This net was not terribly successful, and my location on the Left Coast meant that I had a hard time hearing people on 20 meters.

As Hartley continued to age, he "encouraged" (or at a minimum, arm-twisted) a number of us to become more involved. I will not "name names", but if you look at our masthead you'll find most of Hartley's "helpers" listed.

I provided a home for the fledgling BMHA website when we outgrew our RAGBRAI sponsorship, and started to take on maintenance of the roster. Although I did not write the newsletter, I did print the mailing labels. I also took several months to scan each past newsletter and created the CD which contains them all (and which provided the images for the back-issues available on our website.)

Hartley's health continued to decline and in 1999 he passed on the reigns to the current Board who were appointed to "to serve until December 31, 2000, and thereafter, until their successors are appointed". Since we never have had an election since then, we continue to be the BMHA "leadership".

With recent changes in my home Internet connectivity, we have moved the website off of my family's site and onto a location of its own at <http://www.BMHA-Hams.org> -- and now have an essentially infinite amount of web space available for us.

### My life as a bicyclist

I was bitten badly by the bicycling bug about the time I started high school in 1969. I joined the Western Wheelers bicycle club at that time (today, I am not the first WW member, but I have the longest-continuously-held membership in the club). I worked my first Century (the San Andreas "no-fault" Century, the precursor to today's popular Sequoia Century) before riding one -- as I was hit by a car on my way to school and my broken collarbone had not healed in time for the ride.

I have ridden a double century (the Davis Double) twice -- both times with my father, whom I essentially "towed in" as we took 15-16 hours for the 207 mile ride.

I have worked almost all of the Western Wheelers' centuries since they started. Originally manning one of the sag wagons, later graduating to Course Marshall (I owned two beautiful red convertibles at the time, and it was a good way to encourage bicycle safety). Once I received my ham ticket I have used it to support communications -- for the past decade as Net Control for the event.

I have always had an interest in bicycle safety, and early in my career with the Western Wheelers I was on the Board as safety officer (I was still in high school at the time).

I am not riding the bicycle as much as I should -- mostly just way too busy and I can't really commute on a bicycle (because the trip is too short -- I live literally across the street from my place of employment -- you can see a car parked in front of my house from my office desk). So I have a few extra pounds that I'd like to shed.



## My life as a ham

I have always been interested in radio, but was terrified of the Morse Code requirement. (I now have my 20-WPM Extra license, but have never used Morse Code except to be tested). Two events triggered my desire to get my license -- working Course Marshall for the Sequoia Century for several years (and talking with the hams that we used as communications resources in the car) -- and the infamous Loma Prieta earthquake in 1987 (I live about 15 miles from the epicenter of that Bay Area earthquake).

I am active in ARES / RACES through both the Silicon Valley Emergency Communication System (SVECS) and the Southern Peninsula Emergency Communication System (SPECS). I am an AEC (Assistant Emergency Coordinator) for my city of Sunnyvale.

I am on the Board of Directors for the Las Cumbres Amateur Radio Club which manage the three K6FB linked repeaters at two sites, and the HP Silicon Valley Radio Club, which manages the WW6HP repeater.

## About me

I have two daughters -- they youngest in 7<sup>th</sup> grade, the oldest (who has her ham license) is a Sophomore in college.

I have both a Bachelor's and a Master's degree in Electrical Engineering. By the time you read this, I will have completed my 30<sup>th</sup> year working for Hewlett-Packard, which is the company that I started with immediately after graduating from college.

Within HP, I have held a number of roles, mostly within the R&D and Quality communities. For the past ten years I have managed a group of software development engineers for our desktop consumer PC product lines.

Skip La Fetra, AA6WK

[BMHA-Webmaster@LaFetra.com](mailto:BMHA-Webmaster@LaFetra.com)

## **BMHA NEWSLETTER**

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Russell Dwarshuis, KB8U   John Einberger, NA0A

**Founder:** Hartley Alley, NA0A (*Silent Key – May 2001*)

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The BMHA is affiliated with Adventure Cycling Association.

**BICYCLE MOBILE HAMS OF AMERICA (BMHA)**

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